

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/618,523

Examiner

David J. Parsley

Applicant(s)

LEE, KOK-MENG

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment dated 2-14-06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15, 23-35 and 46-53.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: 1.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the combination of the limitations of "...a speed control module for controlling the speed and timing of the rotation of the supporting structures; a pallet assembly having a perch bar supporting structure, the perch bar supporting structure including perch bars; a shackle assembly movably affixed to the pallet assembly, the shackle assembly comprising a pair of non-rigid grippers; a trap bar assembly, the trap bar assembly rotatably affixed to the pallet assembly; a shackle control mechanism affixed to the shackle assembly, the shackle control mechanism configured to lock and release the shackle assembly from the pallet assembly; a trolley configured to move in an x-translational direction, the trolley affixed to the pallet assembly; and said pallet assembly comprising a bottom panel, a first side panel hingedly connected to a side of said bottom panel, and a second side panel hingedly connected to a side of said bottom panel at a location opposite to the first side panel..." in claim 1, the combination of the limitations of "...wherein the pallet assembly is configured to include rollers for traversing on a conveyor, the pallet assembly further being configured to travel along a separate track of the conveyor from a track of the conveyor utilized by the trolley; wherein the conveyor further comprises a drop cam; wherein the shackle control mechanism further comprises a shackle stopper and a shackle releaser, and wherein the shackle stopper and shackle releaser provide for a move or stop control in both an x and z-direction; and wherein the shackle assembly further comprises an x-motion guide configured to mount a trap-bar cam profile, magnetic lock and linear bearings that guide the shackle assembly in an x-direction, and z-motion guide rods on which the pair of compliant grippers and a shackle motion

Art Unit: 3643

control rod are affixed...” in claim 28 and the combination of the limitations of “...a first speed control module for controlling the speed of a conveyor; a second speed control module for controlling the speed and timing of the rotation of the pair of rotating hands in relation to speed of the conveyor; a pair of counter rotating support structures configured to compel the live object in an x-translational direction at an x-translational speed, each supporting structure including an upper portion and a lower portion, and wherein the upper portion includes a plurality of apertures having a first configuration and the lower portion includes a plurality of apertures having a second configuration; a compliant finger disposed within each of the plurality of apertures, the pair of counter rotating supporting structures are further configured to provide an opening for receiving the live object and wherein the compliant fingers are further configured to grasp and hold a body of the live object; a speed control module for controlling the speed and timing of the rotation of the supporting structures; and said pallet assembly comprising a bottom panel, a first side panel hingedly connected to a side of said bottom panel, and a second side panel hingedly connected to a side of said bottom panel at a location opposite to the first side panel...” in claim 33 all are not found in the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Art Unit: 3643

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Parsley whose telephone number is (571) 272-6890.

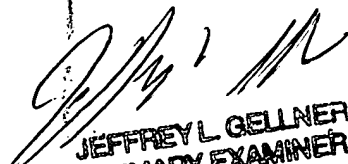
The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Parsley
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643


JEFFREY L. GELLNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER